

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: NORTHAG BRIGADE STATIONING

REF: A. STATE 280850, 270031Z NOVEMBER 1975.

B. BONN 19370, 281847Z NOVEMBER 1975.

C. STATE 287639, 060013Z DECEMBER 1975.

1. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED MINISTER LEBER'S REPLY
(PARAGRAPH 3, REFERENCE B) TO THE MEMORANDUM ON NORTHAG
DEPLOYMENT OF A US ARMY BRIGADE (PARAGRAPH 3, REFERENCE A)
PRESENTED TO AND DISCUSSED WITH LEBER BY THE AMBASSADOR
ON NOVEMBER 28. WE CONSEQUENTLY ARE CONCERNED THAT THE
MOMENTUM OF THE NORTHAG STATIONING INITIATIVE MAY WIND
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DOWN UNLESS PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED DURING SECDEF AND MOD

BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS DURING NPG MEETING IN HAMBURG.

2. FOR THIS REASON AND THAT OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MAKING EARLY PROGRESS ON RELOCATING THE BRIGADE TO THE NORTHAG AREA, AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO MEET WITH LEBER BEFORE THE NPG MEETING TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF NORTHAG BRIGADE RELOCATION DELIBERATIONS. IN DOING SO, THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE MADE TO LEBER.

A. STATIONING A US ARMY BRIGADE IN THE NORTHAG AREA WOULD BE A STEP OF IMPORTANCE BOTH TO THE US AND THE FRG. WE PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT SECRETARY RUMSFELD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH MOD LEBER AT THE FORTHCOMING NPG MEETING IN HAMBURG.

B. WHAT THE US NEEDS FROM MINISTER LEBER ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL ASSURANCES REQUIRED TO BEGIN RELOCATING THE BRIGADE. NEEDED ASSURANCES ARE THAT:

--FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET INITIAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS. (IN THIS REGARD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LEBER UNDERSTANDS THAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING TO THE FRG FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEFRAISING OPERATING COSTS, BUT ONLY CONSTRUCTION COSTS.)

--ANY PRIOR YEAR OFFSET FUNDS TEMPORARILY DIVERTED FROM THE TROOP FACILITIES REHABILITATION PROGRAM WILL BE REPLACED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR MIGHT REMIND LEBER THAT WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT NATO COULD AGREE TO REPLACE UNCOMMITTED OFFSET FUNDS FROM INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE 1975-1979 PERIOD, EXCEPT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM.)

C. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW WHAT ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPEDIMENTS EXIST TO A FAVORABLE FRG DECISION.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BASED UPON HIS CONVERSATION WITH LEBER, IN PREPARING FOR THE BILATERAL MEETING IN HAMBURG.
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